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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
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PATENT  
Attorney Docket No.: 16869P-004610US  
Client Ref. No.: 219800332US2

On January 20, 2004

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By: Monique M. Butler



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of:

Yukihiro Shibata et al.

Application No.:

Filed: Herewith

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
OBSERVING AND INSPECTING  
DEFECTS

Customer No.: 20350

Confirmation No. Unassigned

Examiner: Unassigned

Technology Center/Art Unit: Unassigned

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please enter the following amendments and remarks:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this paper.